



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY - - STATE OFFICE

October 2008

OCTOBER 15, 2008, DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL (DCP) DEADLINE APPROACHES

October 15, 2008, is the deadline to return all producers' signatures having a share greater than zero designated on the CCC-509, 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Program Contract. The signed CCC-509 shall be returned to the County Office that initiated the enrollment. Failure to return these signatures timely will result in the farm being ineligible for benefits for DCP benefits for 2008.

2005-2007 CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CDP)

Producers are reminded that FSA County Offices are accepting applications for *quality and quantity* losses for the 2005-2007 CDP Program. A deadline has not been announced at the current time. Interested producers should apply in their local FSA office.

NEW ELIGIBILITY BENEFITS FOR THE 2008 FARM BILL

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 provides benefits for *beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and limited resource farmers or ranchers* for many farm programs. Below is a program summary chart that identifies when the eligibility is applicable to a program.

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New Eligibility Benefits For The 2008 Farm Bill (Cont.)

Programs Summary Table

Program	Beginning Farmer or Rancher	Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher	Socially Disadvantaged (Excluding Gender)	Socially Disadvantaged (Including Gender)
Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) 10-acre exception		X		X
ACRE 10-acre exception		X		X
Conservation Reserve (CRP)	X	X	X	
5% Assistance to Certain Farmers and Ranchers to Improve Their Access to Conservation Programs	X		X	
Emergency Conservation (ECP)		X		
Biomass Crop Assistance (BCAP)	X		X	
Non-insured Disaster Assistance (NAP)		X		
Waiver of Risk Management Purchase Requirement for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish, and TAP	X	X	X	

The following gives a definition for each of the eligibility categories:

BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

- has **not** operated a farm for more than 10 years
- **Note:** This requirement applies to all members of an entity.
- will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- in the case of an entity, all of the members or stockholders in a corporation are qualified beginning farmers or ranchers.

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to **racial** or **ethnic** prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is a farmer or rancher who is a member of a Socially disadvantaged group.

Socially Disadvantaged (Cont.)

For entity applicants, all members/stockholders of the entity must be socially disadvantaged.

These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics

Note: Gender is not a covered group under the 1990 Farm Bill definition, but is covered under CONACT. The program summary chart above will help identify when gender is considered a socially disadvantaged group for a program.

LIMITED RESEROUCE FARMER OR RANCHER

A limited resource farmer or rancher is a producer with both of the following:

- direct or indirect gross farm sales of not more than \$100,000 in both of the previous 2 years, to be increased beginning FY 2004 to adjust for inflation using Prices Paid by Farmer Index as compiled by NASS
- total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in both of the previous 2 years, to be determined annually using Commerce Department data.

Note: For up-to-date data for this definition, a limited resource farmer or rancher status can be determined in an automated system using the web site for the NRCS Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>. This tool will determine a producer's Status using their personal data at their State and county location.

2007 PEANUT FINAL COUNTER-CYCLICAL (CC) PAYMENTS

Producers with peanut bases will soon be issued a final 2007 Counter-Cyclical payment. Peanuts are due a final payment because the effective price is below the target price. The effective price equals the direct payment rate, plus the higher of the national average loan rate or the national average price received by producers. The final payment rate is the target price minus the effective price. The following table illustrates the calculation for peanuts.

Item	Peanuts Dollars Per Pound
Target Price	0.247500
National Average Loan Rate	0.177500
National Average Farm Price	0.205000
Higher of Loan Rate or Farm Price	0.205000
Direct Payment Rate	0.018000
Effective Price	0.223000
Final CC Payment Rate (Target Price Minus Effective Price)	0.024500
First Partial Payment Rate	0.003800
Final CC Payment Rate Less First and Second Partial Payments	0.020700

2009 NON-INSURED DISASTER ASSISTANCE (NAP) SALES CLOSING DATE APPROACHES

December 1, 2008, – Apples, Peaches, Grapes, Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ginseng Root, Ornamental Nursery, Turf Grass Sod, Oats, Wheat, Barley, Rye, Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Figs, Grapes, Peaches, Pears, Honey, Alfalfa, Bahia, Bermuda Coastal, Bermuda Common, Bermuda Hybrid, Bluestem Old World, Fescue Red, Fescue Tall, Lovegrass, Mixed Forage, Native Interseeded, Orchard Grass, Small Grain/Interseeded, and Sudangrass – December 1, 2008, is **NAP Application Sales Closing Date** – Either multi-peril Federal Crop Insurance or Non-Insured Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage is required on all crops in order to be eligible for benefits for the *Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program, Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF)*. NAP is required on grazing losses to be eligible for the *Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)*. The coverage is required on all crops grown in all counties. If RMA insurance is available producers must timely purchase RMA coverage, if not available then the producer must purchase NAP Coverage. A full article can be found in the July Special Edition SCOOP found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=ar&area=home&subject=nele&topic=landing>.

WAIVER OF LATE-FILE ACREAGE REPORTING FEES

Producers who have Non-insured Disaster Assistance (NAP) policies for the 2009 crops of aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng root, ornamental nursery, turf grass sod, oats, or wheat will not be charged a late-filed acreage reporting fee, provided the acreage is certified on form **FSA-578** in the applicable County Office by December 1, 2008. The December 1, 2008, extension is being granted as a result of the fact that the NAP sales closing date was extended to December 1, 2008.

FSA DISASTER PROGRAMS REQUIRE FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE AND DEADLINES APPROACH

With the enactments of the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act), Pub L. 110-246, contains NEW emergency disaster programs for which producers will be required to purchase multi-peril Federal Crop Insurance on all crops grown if available before the crops' sales closing date. ***The deadline to obtain Federal Crop Insurance Coverage is quickly approaching on some crops, and producers need to report immediately to their agent of choice to obtain coverage.*** More information on the new disaster programs and insurance requirements can be found in the July Special Edition SCOOP <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=ar&area=home&subject=nele&topic=landing>.